

measure will establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to raise graduation rates, modernize facilities, and create new online learning opportunities.

This legislation not only invests in our college students, but also focuses on the next generation of students by ensuring that all children have the preparation and skills they need on their very first day of school. By creating the Early Learning Challenge Fund, competitive grants will be awarded to states that implement comprehensive reform of birth-to-five early learning programs. H.R. 3221 also provides more than \$13.7 million over the next two years to Rhode Island school districts for school modernization, renovation and repair projects that will create healthier, safer and more energy-efficient teaching and learning climates.

Madam Chair, this measure will have long-term benefits for our economy. Going forward, we must continue to build upon these advances so the next generation is encouraged to pursue their dreams.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMBRIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Cambria County Association of Township Officials. This organization and the townships that comprise it have seen many changes over the last century since its inception.

When Cambria County's townships first formed, they were primarily agrarian. Farms dotted the landscape and were valuable contributors to the local, state, and national economies. However, as America was quickly industrializing, the townships changed as many of their citizens began working in the coal mines that were opening throughout the county. Even today, the economies are again changing as Cambria County's townships are becoming the center of new, high-tech industries.

Madam Speaker, while the county's industries have changed over the years, Cambria County's townships have adapted by adding and diversifying its businesses. Instead of changing entirely, the townships are now home to agriculture, mining, and high-tech industries.

The townships are also quality places to live, with many who work elsewhere choosing to live and raise families there. They are among the county's assets.

Finally, like the County itself, the townships have endured much hardship, surviving severe flooding in 1889, 1936, and 1977. They also survived the collapse of the steel industry and the ripple effects throughout the entire county. Their resilience is a reflection of the strong people who live and work there.

Over the years, as the townships experienced the economic ups and downs, they have had a constant advocate. The Cambria County Association of Township Officials has been there to lobby on behalf of its members. They meet on a monthly basis, gathering to

discuss common issues. The group is also a member of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by commending the Cambria County Association of Township Officials, as well as the townships themselves, for their hard work and dedication to the people of Cambria County.

CONGRATULATING THE KERN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kern Community Foundation (KCF) on its 10th anniversary serving the citizens of the southern San Joaquin Valley. KCF was formally established in 1999, but it actually organized in 1995. The Foundation was created to build endowments to address Kern County's changing needs over time, help donors create charitable legacies, and assist nonprofit groups to deliver services to manage their donated funds.

In 2002, KCF joined the League of California Community Foundations, and received re-granting funds from the California Endowment for health needs in Kern County. KCF then launched the Nonprofits' Resource Center in 2003 to assist Kern County's nonprofit organizations with training, discussions of community issues, technical assistance, grant-writing help, e-blast communications, and program support.

In 2005, KCF introduced the Women's & Girls' Fund of Kern County as its first Field of Interest Fund. The Women's & Girls' Fund provides ongoing support to nonprofit organizations that serve Kern's women and girls. To date, the Fund has introduced the concepts of "collective giving" and "giving circles" to more than 300 donors. KCF's Women's & Girls' Fund has been model for other small foundations in California to emulate.

Also in 2005, the Kern Community Foundation entered strategic re-granting partnerships with private foundations, all of which continue in 2009. These partners include the California Wellness Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation. The Kern Community Foundation achieved compliance with "National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations" in 2006.

Since its inception, the Kern Community Foundation has promoted philanthropy to individuals, nonprofits and civic groups in numerous Kern communities including Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Wasco and the Kern River Valley area. With new funds added each year, KCF currently holds 90 charitable funds to suit various donors' intent. The Foundation has operated several grant making programs to benefit Kern County: Discretionary Grants; Kern Community Wellness Grants; Weingart-KCF Grants; Kern Community Response Grants; School-to-Career Grants; Women's & Girls' Fund Grants; and GABY (Grant Advisory Board for Youth) Grants.

The Kern Community Foundation has given the County of Kern ten years of dedicated service. I commend KCF for its service to Kern County residents in standing by their

mission statement of "enhancing the quality of life for all of the people of Kern County by encouraging philanthropy, by providing services to donors, and by assisting those who serve to meet the needs of the community." I applaud KCF's admirable service to Kern County and will continue to do so for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JAMES EDWARD BROMWELL

**HON. DAVID LOEBSACK**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, today I would like to make note of the life of former Congressman James Edward Bromwell. Mr. Bromwell served his country in WWII as an officer after finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa. Upon honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1946, Mr. Bromwell received his MBA from Harvard University and then returned home to receive his JD from the University of Iowa in 1950. Mr. Bromwell served as Assistant Linn County Attorney before being elected as the Representative for the 2nd Congressional District in 1960. As Representative of the 2nd District, Mr. Bromwell sat on the Judiciary Committee and was imperative in contributing and ultimately helping pass the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. This landmark legislation corrected a serious social injustice within our society. Mr. James Edward Bromwell passed away on July 11, 2009. The service that James Bromwell performed for his country and state will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLIFTON JEWISH CENTER

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, The Clifton Jewish Center in Clifton, New Jersey, which this year is celebrating its 66th Anniversary of dedicated service and support to the Jewish Community.

It is only fitting that The Clifton Jewish Center be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the spiritual home it has provided to Jewish American families, especially those just embarking on their American dream, and its dedication to the entire community. This dedication keeps this deeply-rooted institution growing towards the future.

The Clifton Jewish Center is a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue providing worship, comfort and friendship to the Jewish community. From its beginnings in 1943, with only a handful of families, the Center has been a constant source of cultural and spiritual events for all age groups. The Center's main purpose has always been to enrich the lives of the people of Clifton by providing creative programming of an educational, cultural and recreational nature.

Jewish culture relies a great deal upon the passing of information from one generation to another. The Center offers youth activities such as lectures, workshops, religious school and Hebrew High for students after their bar or bat mitzvah, all aimed at teaching children about the Jewish faith. Events for adult and senior members continue to carry the traditions of the culture and faith as well as provide opportunities for socializing.

The most important service that The Clifton Jewish Center provides is that of being a sounding board and a voice for the thriving Jewish community in the greater Clifton area. Its sponsorship and participation with interfaith programs, human relations and civic improvement reach across the lines of faith to help promote the interests and values of their membership. Under the leadership of Rabbi Ari Korenblit, it is successfully contacting and connecting with all the other organizations in the area.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of wonderful, thriving community institutions such as The Clifton Jewish Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join the members and clergy of The Clifton Jewish Center, all whose faith has been enriched throughout the years and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of The Clifton Jewish Center to the Jewish community and beyond.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JASON CHAFFETZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the Congressional Record prior to floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested.

Specifically, H.R. 2265, the Magna Water District Water Reuse and Groundwater Recharge Act of 2009, which I introduced on May 6, 2009, contains an earmark as defined under House Rule XXI, clause 9. The earmark in H.R. 2265 authorizes appropriations for projects under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act.

The project authorized in H.R. 2265 is an advanced water treatment facility and reuse water system in the township of Magna, Utah, located in the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake County. Magna relies on drinking water from two well fields, one of which has been impacted by the contaminant perchlorate, a by-product of decades of manufacturing of rocket motors and explosives by the defense and aerospace industries. Additionally, the EPA changed the standard for arsenic in drinking water, an unfunded mandate for which water suppliers across the Nation must comply. Because of this contamination and the unfunded federal mandate, the Magna Water District is attempting to restore the Barton Well Field, a valuable water resource. Therefore, reclamation of this drinking water source necessitates federal assistance.

This legislation would authorize \$12 million to allow for the planning, design, and construction of the Magna Water District (District) water reuse and groundwater recharge project. The District constructed an electro dialysis reversal (EDR) drinking water treatment plant to remove harmful arsenic and perchlorate from the Barton Well Field. To address the water shortage issues facing the citizens of northwest Salt Lake County, the District developed a state-of-the-art, first of its type in the world water reuse and recharge facility, known as BIOBROx, that treats the waste stream from the EDR plant to produce high quality effluent that can be used for outdoor irrigation. In doing so, the District will be saving over 580 million gallons/year of drinkable water that was formerly being used for irrigation purposes.

The project also includes additional pumping facilities, distribution system upgrades, and storage facilities required to deliver reuse water to the District's customers.

The Magna Water District has invested \$36 million in the project and is seeking the \$12 million federal appropriation to complete construction of the project.

I certify that this project does not have any foreseeable effect on any of my financial interests, nor the interests of any member of my family. Consistent with the Republican Conference's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

**CAPTAIN DREW BESSINGER**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public safety officer who has spent his entire career serving the public. I am speaking of Captain Drew Bessinger, of the Clovis Police Department (CPD) in Clovis, California. Captain Bessinger will conclude his years of service in law enforcement and retire from the Clovis Police Department this year.

Captain Bessinger was born in the Garden State of New Jersey, where he graduated from high school in 1975. Upon his graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army. During his tenure in the Army, Captain Bessinger was a Military Police Officer; serving in Germany and achieving the rank of Sergeant.

Upon returning from his service overseas, Captain Bessinger worked for the Department of Defense Police in Virginia. Santa Barbara Police Department hired Captain Bessinger which brought him to California in 1980 and he served there until 1984. In 1984, he accepted a position with the University Police Department of Fresno State, my alma mater. He was then hired by the Clovis Police Department in 1987, where he remained for twenty two years in a variety of roles helping the community of Clovis.

At Clovis Police Department, Captain Bessinger served in patrol, investigations, neighborhood policing, youth services, administration, planning and neighborhood services assignments. He continued his years of service with undoubtedly flawless service to the community and people of Clovis, he climbed the ranks from Corporal in October, 1992, and only five years later in 1997 became Sergeant. At the height of his career, he became Captain in April 2007.

During his tenure at Clovis Police Department, Captain Bessinger helped design: the shoulder patch policemen wear on their uniforms for CPD; the department's Honor Guard Badge; and Challenge coin. He also led the Honor Guard Unit, participated in the Peace Officers Memorial at Pelco Company, participated in the Annual Peace Officers Memorial in Fresno's Courthouse Park, the State Officers Memorial in Sacramento, and was an officer at the funeral for fallen Marine Jared Hubbard and Army Soldier Nathan Hubbard. The Hubbard's where sons of a retired department sergeant. Captain Bessinger volunteered for the Special Olympics and also managed to oversee several operations in the CPD including Youth Services, Animal Services, Communications, and administrative duties ranging from writing/updating Municipal Codes, Homeland Security and Grants, Internal Affairs and Audits, Workers Comp, and Public Information.

Aside from serving the public as a Policeman throughout his life, one of Captain Bessinger's proudest accomplishments has been raising his two sons; Derek who is twenty nine and Chris who is twenty five. Single-handedly, he raised his two boys from the ages of four and sixteen months, a responsibility any father would fathom. During this time, he managed the duties of a father, police officer, and as a student earning his college degree. Captain Bessinger celebrates with his wife Yvonne, their ninth anniversary this year. I ask that my colleagues please salute Captain Bessinger for his years of service in the law enforcement field and to wish him well as he retires from the Clovis Police Department.

#### RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of recognizing the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994. I commend our distinguished colleague from New York, Representative SLAUGHTER, for introducing this resolution which recognizes a significant achievement in the women's rights movement.

This landmark legislation, originally authored by our former colleague, Senator JOSEPH BIDEN, set a new standard for preventing violence against women and provides resources necessary for coping with attacks that have occurred. Since the enactment of VAWA fifteen years ago, this country has made significant progress in our response to domestic and dating violence, sexual assaults and stalking.